

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02136 031851Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 LAB-04 EB-08 ACDA-12 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04
INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05
ICA-20 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /160 W
-----010002 040440Z /13

R 031725Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7919
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIHAOAA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2136

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMED, SWEL, HO
SUBJECT: PESTICIDES FOOD CONTAMINATION

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 1020, (B) PANAMA 1157,
(C) MANAGUA 1120, (D) TEGUCIGALPA 1392

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME OVER PESTICIDES
FOOD CONTAMINATION. IN 1976 THE US REJECTED AT ITS
BORDER ABOUT 500,000 POUNDS OF SALVADORAN BEEF FOR
BEING OVER THE THRESHOLD FOR DDT (SOME UP TO 95 PPM
WHEREAS THRESHOLD IS 5 PPM) AND FOR OTHER PESTICIDES.
WE HAVE ASSUMED HIGH LEVELS ON THE LOCAL MARKET FOR ALL
DAIRY AND MEAT PRODUCTS INCLUDING IMPORTS FROM GUATEMALA.

2. WE APPRECIATE ALL THE INFORMATION AND COMMENTS
IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGES AND SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED ON THIS
PROBLEM. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION ON THE THREAT OF DDT TO HUMAN HEALTH.
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3. WE HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE SINCE 1976
IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES CUSTOMS AND PROCEDURES,
INCLUDING LAWS ON PESTICIDE USE CALLING FOR PHASING
DOWN OF USE OF DDT ON COTTON, FORBIDDING GRAZING OF
CATTLE ON COTTON STUBBLE, AND IMPROVING THE INSPECTION

SERVICES. BUT USE OF PESTICIDES CONTINUES RAMPANT AND INCREASES WITH STRONGER AND DIFFERENT CHEMICALS AS INSECTS DEVELOP IMMUNITIES, AND IS GENERALLY INDISCRIMINATE WITH REGARD TO IMPACT ON THE HUMAN POPULATION. WE BELIEVE THE OVERALL PROBLEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY GENERALLY. OUR OWN PEOPLE CAN BE ADVISED VOLUNTARILY TO USE PROCESSED MILK AND FAT OR SUBSTITUTES, AND IMPORT MEAT FROM THE US, SHOULD THEIR OWN CONCERN OVER THE THREAT SO INDICATE. OUR EMBASSY COMMISSARY STOCKS THESE ITEMS OR HAS THE CAPABILITY FOR IMPORTING THEM, INCLUDING FROZEN O-5, FROM THE US.

DEVINE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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